

Amendments to the Claims:

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims, including amendments to the claims, is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(3). This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A remote control unit (6) for use with [[the]]~~a~~ device for controlling the sound levels of a group of audio channels having a main channel (MC) and at least one auxiliary channel (AC1) which can be rendered simultaneously, the device including user controlled selection means (14, 16) for selecting the main channel, and automatic level adjustment means (12, 13) for adjusting the sound level of the at least one auxiliary channel relative to the main channel, the remote control unit comprising:

~~selection-interface-components (62, 63); a first user-operable control device for selecting the main channel (MC); and~~

~~a second user-operable control device which responds to a user control to toggle among a plurality of pre-set relative sound level ratios between the main channel (MC) and the at least one auxiliary channel (AC1).~~

17-29. (Canceled)

30. (New) The remote control unit of claim 16, wherein the second user-operable control device is a toggle stick configured such that when a user moves the toggle stick in a first direction, the device switches to a one of the plurality of pre-set relative sound level ratios that is greater than a pre-set relative sound level ratio that was selected prior to moving the toggle stick in the first direction, and when the user moves the toggle stick in a second direction opposite the first direction, the device

switches to a one of the plurality of pre-set relative sound level ratios that is less than a pre-set relative sound level ratio that was selected prior to moving the toggle stick in the second direction.

31. (New) The remote control unit of claim 16, wherein the second user-operable control device is a toggle stick configured such that when a user moves the toggle stick, the device temporarily selects a new one of the plurality of pre-set relative sound level ratios that has a different value compared to a pre-set relative sound level ratio that was selected prior to moving the toggle stick, and after a fixed period of time, automatically selects again the pre-set relative sound level ratio that was selected prior to moving the toggle stick.

32. (New) A device, comprising:
a first input adapted to receive a first audio signal;
a second input adapted to receive a second audio signal;
a selection device adapted to receive a user selection signal and in response thereto to select one of the first and second audio signals as a main audio signal; and to select another of the first and second audio signals as an auxiliary audio signal;
and
an automatic adjustment unit adapted to receive the auxiliary audio signal and to receive an auxiliary level control signal derived from the main audio signal, and in response thereto to automatically adjust a level of the auxiliary audio signal to have a particular ratio with respect to a level of the main audio signal.

33. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the selection device comprises:
first and second inputs adapted to receive the first and second audio signals, respectively;
a first output adapted to output the main audio signal;
a second output adapted to output the auxiliary audio signal; and
a switching device adapted, in response to the user selection signal, to

selectively connect the first input to one of the first and second outputs, and to selectively connect the second input to another one of the first and second outputs.

34. (New) The device of claim 32, further comprising a main audio adjustment unit adapted to receive a main level control signal and in response thereto, to adjust the level of the main audio signal.

35. (New) The device of claim 34, and wherein the selection device comprises: a first input adapted to receive an output of the main audio adjustment unit; a second input adapted to receive an output of the auxiliary audio adjustment unit;

a third input adapted to receive the main level control signal; and
a fourth input adapted to receive the user selection signal,
wherein in response to the user selection signal, the selection device supplies the auxiliary level control signal as a control input to the auxiliary audio adjustment unit, and supplies the main level control signal as a control input to the main audio adjustment unit.

36. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the particular ratio is stored in a memory of the device.

37. (New) The device of claim 36, wherein the memory stores a plurality of ratios, and the device selects one of the ratios to be the particular ratio.

38. (New) The device of claim 37, wherein the device selects one of the ratios to be the particular ratio in response to metadata that identifies a type of audio content included in at least one of the main audio signal and the auxiliary audio signal.

39. (New) The device of claim 37, wherein the device determines a frequency

spectrum characteristic of at least one of the main audio signal and the auxiliary audio signal and in response thereto selects one of the ratios to be the particular ratio.

40. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the automatic adjustment unit comprises:

a level control unit; and
an adjustable gain amplifier adapted to amplify the auxiliary audio signal,
wherein the level control unit is adapted to provide a gain control signal for controlling a gain of the adjustable gain amplifier.

41. (New) The device of claim 40, wherein the level control unit is adapted to receive the auxiliary audio signal and to receive the auxiliary level control signal derived from the main audio signal, the level control unit comprising:

a division unit adapted to determine an actual ratio of the level of the auxiliary audio signal and the level of the main audio signal; and
a comparison unit for comparing the actual ratio to the particular ratio and in response thereto to provide the gain control signal for controlling the gain of the adjustable gain amplifier to make the actual ratio equal to the particular ratio.

42. (New) The device of claim 41, further comprising a processor adapted to determine the level of the auxiliary audio signal and the level of the main audio signal, wherein the processor is adapted to determine the level of the auxiliary audio signal by calculating a signal power of the auxiliary audio signal over a set time period, and wherein the processor is adapted to determine the level of the main audio signal by calculating a signal power of the main audio signal over the set time period.

43. (New) The device of claim 32, further comprising:

a first output for outputting the main audio signal to a first transducer; and
a second output for outputting the auxiliary audio signal to a second

transducer separate and spaced apart from the first transducer.

44. (New) The device of claim 32, wherein the automatic adjustment unit is adapted to change the particular ratio from a first value to a second value temporarily in response to a characteristic being present in audio content included in at least one of the main audio signal and the auxiliary audio signal, and automatically changing the particular ratio back to the first value when the characteristic is no longer present in the audio content.

45. (New) The device of claim 32, further comprising a video display screen, wherein the video display screen is adapted to be divided into at least a first part for displaying a first video program associated with the first audio signal, and a second part for displaying a second video program associated with the second audio signal

46. (New) A method, comprising:
receiving a first audio signal;
receiving a second audio signal;
receiving a main level control signal;
receiving a user selection signal identifying a selected one of the first and second audio signal to be a main audio signal, the other of the first and second audio signals being non-selected;
in response to the user selection signal, connecting the selected one of the first and second audio signals to a main audio adjustment unit, and connecting the non-selected one of the first and second audio signals to an auxiliary audio adjustment unit;
adjusting a level of the main audio signal by means of the main audio adjustment unit in response to the main level control signal; and
automatically adjusting a level of the auxiliary audio signal by means of the auxiliary audio adjustment unit to have a particular ratio with respect to the level of the main audio signal.

47. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising retrieving the particular ratio from a memory device.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
storing a plurality of ratios in the memory device; and
selecting one of the ratios to be the particular ratio.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein selecting one of the ratios to be the particular ratio comprises:

receiving metadata that identifies a type of audio content included in at least one of the main audio signal and the auxiliary audio signal; and
selecting the particular ratio in response to the metadata.

50. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein selecting one of the ratios to be the particular ratio comprises:

determining a frequency spectrum characteristic of at least one of the main audio signal and the auxiliary audio signal; and
selecting the particular ratio in response to the determined frequency spectrum characteristic.

51. (New) The method of claim 46, further comprising:
determining an actual ratio of the level of the auxiliary audio signal and the level of the main audio signal; and
comparing the actual ratio to the particular ratio; and
controlling the gain of an adjustable gain amplifier in the auxiliary audio adjustment unit to make the actual ratio equal to the particular ratio.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, further comprising:
calculating a signal power of the auxiliary audio signal over a set time period;

and

calculating a signal power of the main audio signal over the set time period.

53. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

changing the particular ratio from a first value to a second value temporarily in response to a characteristic being present in audio content included in at least one of the main audio signal and the auxiliary audio signal; and

automatically changing the particular ratio back to the first value when the characteristic is no longer present in the audio content.